

Minutes

General Assembly

of the Radiology Trainees Forum (RTF)

Sunday, March 6, 2011, 15.30-17.00
Meeting Room 5, Level O3, ACV Vienna

PRESENT			
RTF Chairperson		P. Kornaat	
RTF Vice-Chairperson		D. Bulja (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	
Treasurer		A. Šverko Peternac (Croatia)	
Public Relations Officer		A. Alguersuari Cabisco (Spain)	
ESR Officials			
ESR President		M.F. Reiser	
ESR Education Committee Chairperson		É. Breatnach	
ESOR Scientific/Educational Director		N. Gourtsoyiannis	
RTF National Delegates			
Austria	R. Schernthaner	Latvia	A. Smite
Belgium	T. Couvreur	Lithuania	I. Adomaitiene
Bulgaria	S. Dineva (deputy of V. Groudeva)	Netherlands	V. H. Koen
Czech Republic	L. Hrdina	Norway	T. Letting
Denmark	L. Kashi	Poland	K. Kapuscinska
Estonia	K. Roos	Portugal	R. Ramos (deputy of J. Campos)
Finland	M. Jousi	Russia	E. Vasilyeva
France	P. Omoumi (deputy of M. Edjlali-Goujon)	Serbia	P. Avramov
Germany	P. Bannas	Slovenia	S. Dobrecović
Greece	A. Diamantopoulos	Sweden	S. Strandberg (deputy of H. Stahlbrand)
Hungary	A. Levai	Switzerland	C. Bieg
Iceland	H. Már Jónsson	Turkey	U. Orhan
Italy	M.P. Belfiore	United Kingdom	S. Hutchings
ESR Office			
I. Davicino			
K. Kohl (minutes)			

APOLOGISED	
RTF National Delegates	
Albania	A. Rroji
Ireland	M. Knox

NOT PRESENT	
RTF National Delegates	
Belarus	N. Mikhasevich
Georgia	L. Ioseliani
Macedonia, Republic of	M. Lazarenska
Malta	R. Grech
Montenegro	T. Cadenovic
Romania	V. Efimov
Slovak Republic	M. Stevík
Ukraine	O. Chuvashova

AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies, approval of agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly in March 2010
3. General update on the RTF activities (P. Kornaat)
 - a. Presentation of the working plans provided by the RTF delegates (P. Kornaat)
 - b. Discussion and follow-up of working plans (P. Kornaat)
 - c. Update on the RTF delegates' provision of contact details of national residents (P. Kornaat)
 - d. Translation of RTF Starter Kit into national languages to be proposed (A. Sverko-Peternac)
 - e. Stimulation of more active involvement of RTF national delegates over the year
 - f. Regular ESR eNewsletter for Radiology Residents (including updates on RTF Board Meetings)
4. Welcome on behalf of the ESR President (M.F. Reiser)
5. Activity Report from the ESR Education Committee (É. Breatnach)
 - a. European Diploma
 - b. Revised Training Curricula
 - c. Working Group on Undergraduate Teaching
6. Activity Report on ESOR activities (N. Gourtsoyiannis)
7. Election of new RTF Board
8. Position of research officer instead of treasurer
9. ECR 2012 – topics / speakers for the highlighted lectures (P. Kornaat)
10. Miscellaneous (P. Kornaat)
 - a. Discussion of items for possible surveys
 - b. Promotion box with information material for residents to be discussed
11. Date of next meeting: ECR 2012

1. Welcome, apologies, approval of agenda

P. Kornaat welcomed everyone to this year's RTF General Assembly. As there were no further comments, the agenda was approved. The apologies are enlisted above.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the last General Assembly on March 6, 2010

The minutes of the last RTF General Assembly were approved unanimously.

3. Welcome on behalf of the ESR President (M.F. Reiser)

As ESR President M.F. Reiser had to leave the General Assembly earlier due to other commitments, item 4 of the agenda was moved to item 3.

M.F. Reiser cordially welcomed all RTF delegates. He gave a short speech, emphasising the ever increasing importance of radiology and how it has become more attractive in recent years. The ESR is therefore placing ever more special focus on students and radiology residents.

In this regard he presented the Rising Stars Programme at the ECR, which included activities such as free registration for students, the ESR Student Abstract Submission, the five ESR Medical Student Sessions, the Rising Stars Lounge, the Rising Stars Party and a specific survey for residents and students who visited ECR 2011, as the view of the young generation regarding the programme, the social activities and the innovations is of high priority to the ESR. With reference to the free registration for students he informed that the latter was limited to students without any academic title and must be accompanied by a valid student ID in English. The age limit is set at 30 years. He also mentioned that student participation at the ECR rose from 786 students in 2010 to 954 in 2011 at the day of the meeting. The Medical Student Abstract Submission was a new initiative by the ESR. For the first time ever medical students had the opportunity to present their own abstracts in front of a huge audience at ECR 2011. The best authors had been invited to Vienna to present their work, while accommodation and travel expenses were covered by the European Society of Radiology. It was informed that 6 topics were given, 186 abstracts were submitted and 20 abstract were accepted. Four medical student sessions were held on Friday and Saturday, with SMS-voting in each session. The audience voted for the best lecture to be presented again on Sunday. In the final medical student session the 4 most outstanding lecturers gave some background on their medical education and a short summary of their lecture. They were awarded by the ESR. Regarding the Rising Stars Lounge, M.F. Reiser emphasised that ESR's ambition was making students and residents always feel at home at ECR. All students and residents were invited to visit the Rising Stars Lounge, a central meeting point during the ECR. An RTF booth as well as a staffed ESOR booth was integrated in the Lounge.

M.F. Reiser apologised for not being able to attend the entire RTF General Assembly and left the meeting by wishing all residents an enjoyable remaining time in Vienna.

4. Activity Report from the ESR Education Committee (É. Breatnach)

a. Revised Training Curricula

The first topic to be presented by É. Breatnach was the Revised Training Curriculum. He gave a brief update on the current status of the document. He stated that the revision aimed to clarify and update certain areas, incorporate new knowledge requirements and involve cooperation with all ESR subspecialty societies. New elements in the revised curriculum included specific sections dealing with communication skills, molecular imaging, good radiology report writing, multidisciplinary conferencing, trainee logbook procedures and CME.

É. Breatnach informed that the existing current version was seen as a living document which is subject to continuous update and revision and is therefore available in electronic format at <http://www.myesr.org/trainingcharter>. In this regard, É. Breatnach asked the national delegates to provide information on the duration of their national training schemes. The result was that it varied greatly from country to country. Nevertheless, the majority of delegates reported that they had a five-year training programme.

b. Working Group on Undergraduate Teaching

É. Breatnach continued to speak about the Working Group on Undergraduate Teaching. He stated that the matter of undergraduate education in radiology was directly relevant to the RTF. A White Paper on Undergraduate Education in Radiology had been finalised before ECR 2011 and is to be published soon in *Insights into Imaging* after being approved by the ESR Executive Council in the following days. The White Paper comprised the Group's first suggestions for raising the profile of Radiology among medical undergraduates.

c. European Diploma

The next topic relevant to the RTF was the European Diploma, a brand new qualification providing an objective test of knowledge for radiologists at their end of training. He explained that the European Diploma had several benefits, particularly in the context of medical migration, as the examination will facilitate procedures by providing an ESR-endorsed qualification to confirm proof of training supplemental to any national qualifications.

With reference to the eligibility criteria, it was explained that a completion of documented radiology training in a nationally accredited programme was required, as well as membership of a national radiological society. Candidates must also be full ESR members in the year of the examination.

RTF delegates
*encouraged to take
Diploma examination at
the end of their training
and promote it among
their colleagues*

As regards the structure it was stated that the examination is divided into three parts. Part one is electronic-based and consists of 60 multiple choice questions, reflecting knowledge in general radiology at a standard to be expected at the end of training. Part two consists of a series of short cases and is followed by part three, an oral examination conducted by internationally recognised radiology educators working under the auspices of the ESR. The knowledge base for the examination is the European Training Charter for Clinical Radiology and its

detailed curricula (current version of February 2011), which can be found on the ESR website as explained before. All those interested can apply online via MyUserArea if they fulfil the eligibility criteria.

5. Activity Report on ESOR activities (N. Gourtsoyiannis)

N. Gourtsoyiannis provided a brief update on the ESOR activities in 2011. New features for 2011 include the expansion of GALEN/ASKLEPIOS courses, one additional scholarship in the USA for Europeans, one additional scholarship for Spanish radiologists in Europe, and a newly introduced scholarship programme for Chinese radiologists. Entirely new to the ESOR portfolio is the Teach-the-Teachers Programme and the ESOR e-library. Other activities such as the GALEN foundation courses, GALEN advanced courses, ASKLEPIOS courses, visiting scholarship programmes and exchange programmes for fellowships will be continued. E. Breatnach thanked N. Gourtsoyiannis for all his efforts and emphasised that all RTF delegates should take advantage of the excellent programme ESOR had put together and urged them to promote the courses among their fellow residents. All information can be found online at www.myESR.org/esor.

RTF delegates encouraged to take advantage of the ESOR programme and promote it among their colleagues

6. General update on the RTF activities (P. Kornaat)

P. Kornaat gave a brief update on the RTF activities. In 2011 the RTF will conduct another survey, the topic was not confirmed yet, but there may be a possibility that it will be on the European Diploma. An eNewsletter for residents and students had been introduced prior to ECR 2011 and had been sent out to approximately 3800 residents and students in the ESR database. P. Kornaat also reminded that the position of a Public Relations officer had been introduced within the RTF Board two years ago and proven very important. An RTF Starter Kit (= ppt) had been put together for the RTF delegates to inform their colleagues about the RTF, the ESR, ECR and ESOR. P. Kornaat also mentioned the activities of the RTF during ECR 2011, which included the RTF Highlighted Lectures, the enlarged Rising Stars Lounge, including a staffed ESOR booth and an RTF booth integrated into the lounge as well as the Rising Stars Party. P. Kornaat informed that 440 tickets were made available and the ticket price was € 17 including VAT. This option had been chosen to allow more residents/students to the party and to make sure that costs stay manageable. The concept proved to be extremely successful, as the party was sold out the day before and about 300 more requests for tickets had to be turned down.

The next topic to be addressed was the discussion of the RTF delegates' working plans and a possible follow-up to this activity. P. Kornaat mentioned that the response rate was particularly high (89.7% or 35 out of 39 delegates responded) thanks to the ESR Office. The provision of a working plan was linked to obtaining a place for the Invest in the Youth Programme, offering all respondents a secure place. All participants agreed that it would be interesting for all to get a summary of the working plans and to do a follow up. C. Bieg from Switzerland volunteered to put together a summary for the next RTF Board Meeting, where further action in this matter will be discussed.

*Follow up on working plans to be discussed by the **RTF Board** in the next meeting*

*Summary of working plans to be provided by **C. Bieg** and discussed in the next RTF Board Meeting*

With regard to the RTF delegates' provision to provide contact details, P. Kornaat emphasised that the RTF delegates are responsible for providing the ESR Office with their up to date contact details in order to facilitate communication. The ESR

*RTF delegates to provide **ESR Office** with up to date contact details*

Office was also able to collect over 937 contact details with the help on many RTF delegates. P. Kornaat thanked all involved RTF delegates for their great help.

RTF delegates to send translations of the RTF Starter Kit to **ESR Office** on a voluntary basis

With reference to the translation of the RTF Starter Kit, A. Šverko Peternac proposed that on a voluntary basis the RTF delegates could translate the RTF Starter Kit and send it to the ESR Office which would put the translation in the according format. However, before doing so, the ESR office will update the Starter Kit accordingly and send out an email to all RTF delegates once the new version is available online.

ESR Office to put translations into according format

ESR Office to upload updated starter kit to RTF sub website and send out email to delegates once the version is online

With reference to the stimulation of a more active involvement of RTF national delegates over the year, it was mentioned that the response rate to the last survey was very high. To further stimulate active involvement in the RTF it was suggested to organise another meeting during the year, which could be organised easily online by the ESR office without any cost and time loss for travelling for the participants to exchange ideas and improve cooperation. All that is needed for such an online conference is a headset and internet connection. Test runs will be done with all delegates beforehand to make sure that the system works on all computers. Otherwise, the delegates were urged to exchange their ideas via email.

RTF Board to provide ESR office with ideas on the future development, how to actively promote the RTF and benefits of ESR, as well as how to stimulate more active involvement of RTF delegates

The delegates were also encouraged to send ideas for articles in the upcoming eNewsletter for residents and students to the ESR Office.

Online meeting with all delegates to encourage active involvement in the RTF to be discussed by the **RTF Board** in the next meeting

7. Position of research officer instead of treasurer

P. Kornaat stated that this agenda item should be moved before the election of the RTF Board, as this position had to be approved by the delegates first. As all RTF finances are now managed by the ESR office, a treasurer is no longer needed. It would thus be useful to install a research officer instead. M. Edjlali-Goujon put this proposition forward and would like to stand as a candidate for this position herself. P. Kornaat provided a brief description of the position. M. Edjlali-Goujon's idea was to bring together the people or institutions that need researchers with the people who would like to do research. This would be carried out by creating a kind of map containing all the research possibilities in Europe. Further details will be determined in the next (online) meeting of the RTF Board.

ESR Office to conduct test runs with all delegates to make sure the system works on all computers

RTF delegates to provide **ESR Office** with articles for the eNewsletter

Further details regarding the distribution of tasks of the RTF Board Members to be determined in next RTF Board (online) Meeting

The proposal was approved by the RTF delegates unanimously.

8. Election of new RTF Board

P. Kornaat mentioned in this regard that a geopolitical spread had to be ensured as well as the continuation of some members of the board to ensure the continuity of the RTF's activities. Six candidates put their names forward for a position in the board: P. Avramov (RS), M. Edjlali-Goujon (FR), S. Hutchings (UK), V. H. Koen (NL) and A. Šverko Peternac (HR). In this regard, D. Bulja suggested reforming the next election of the board, which is to be conducted in 2013. The ESR Office will send out an email to all RTF delegates in autumn 2012 to determine who is interested in becoming a member of the board. Those delegates who are interested will then be asked to present their working plans at the RTF General Assembly in 2013 before the vote.

ESR Office to send email to RTF delegates in autumn 2012 to ask for their willingness to serve on the Board

To be considered: reformation of election process to be discussed by RTF Board in the next meeting

Upon the request of the General Assembly, the candidates shortly introduced

themselves and explained why they would like to serve on the RTF Board:

A. Šverko Peternac commented that she would like to function as a link between the ESR and the national societies and that she would promote ESOR activities and advertise the European Diploma. She suggested putting together a promotion box with materials relevant to students/residents, such as information on the history and future of Radiology, ESOR, the RTF Starter Kit, eEducation and the European Training Charter and send it to every resident who becomes a member of the ESR. With reference to the RTF sub website, A. Šverko Peternac suggested uploading the updated RTF Starter Kit including relevant information on European Diploma.

To be considered:
promotion box to be sent to every resident/students who becomes a member of the ESR

P. Omoumi introduced M. Edjlali-Goujon, since she was unable to attend ECR 2011. He talked about her passion for research and mentioned that she had founded the junior section of the French Society of Radiology. With her help and the support of the French Society of Radiology, 135 French residents had been able to attend the ECR this year.

To be considered:
Update of RTF subwebsite and possible items to be made available to trainees to be discussed by RTF Board

P. Avramov, a third-year resident from Serbia, shortly presented himself. a. Originally he had not considered that it would be possible to attend ECR 2011, as he had a serious injury the week before. In his speech he asked the other delegates to let action speak for itself, as he only came to Vienna for one reason: the RTF General Assembly, thereby emphasising that he had a serious interest in being part of the board.

V. H. Koen, candidate from the Netherlands, stated that she was a second-year resident and part of the board of the Dutch National Association for Residents. She described herself as organising talent and stated that she would put a special focus on equalising training throughout Europe.

S. Hutchings from the United Kingdom was in her fourth year of residency and had already gathered experience in serving in an executive board. She argued that those residents who were new in the RTF Board could learn from the experience of those who had already served in the board. She declared her willingness to interact closely with other RTF national delegates and to improve communication. She suggested promoting eEducation, eLibrary and other sources relevant to students/residents.

D. Bulja stated that he agreed with A. Šverko Peternac in all her proposals for future activities and added that for the Rising Stars Party next year he will try find sponsorship.

D. Bulja to find sponsors for Rising Stars Party next year

Following the presentations, the delegates were asked to vote for three candidates. Subsequently the results of the vote were counted by the ESR Office and announced by the outgoing RTF Board: D. Bulja was elected Chairman and, M. Edjlali-Goujon, S. Hutchings, V. H. Koen, A. Šverko Peternac were elected members of the RTF Board. D. Bulja announced that the individual positions would be discussed in the next RTF Board Meeting (online) in April.

9. ECR 2012 – topics/speakers for the highlighted lectures (P. Kornaat)

P. Kornaat invited the delegates to give suggestions for topics for the highlighted lectures during ECR 2012. These included for instance sessions on traumatised patients (one aspect), chest X-ray, PET/CT, MRI for beginners and interventional X-ray. The final topics and speakers will be determined during the next RTF Board Meeting.

*Topics/speakers for highlighted lectures to be discussed by **RTF Board** during next meeting*

10. Miscellaneous (P. Kornaat)

a. Discussion of items for possible surveys

P. Kornaat asked the participants for their ideas: Suggestions included the European Diploma and corresponding learning materials as well as learning methods and materials in general. The delegates were asked to email suggestions to the board.

*Possible items for **survey** to be discussed during by **RTF Board** during next meeting*

RTF Delegates** to email suggestions for possible surveys to **RTF Board

b. Promotion box with information material for residents to be discussed

A. Šverko Peternac suggested putting together promotional material for RTF delegates after consultation with the ESR Office. In order to ensure that costs stay manageable, it was proposed to send promotional material to the delegates only on demand and preferably in email format.

*Possible items for promotion box to be discussed by **RTF Board** during next meeting*

***ESR Office** to provide promotional material to RTF delegates on demand*

P. Kornaat thanked everyone for their attendance and officially closed the GA.

The next RTF General Assembly will be held during ECR 2012, an online meeting with all RTF delegates will be convened in autumn 2011.